



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

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**ANOTHER STOCKTON "PROJECT EXILE" CASE
INDICTED IN FEDERAL COURT**

SACRAMENTO—United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned an indictment charging ARTURO RIVERA, JR., 22, of Stockton, with being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Specifically, the indictment alleges that RIVERA possessed a Smith and Wesson .44 magnum handgun and two rounds of .44 caliber ammunition on March 15th of this year, and was previously convicted of receipt of stolen property in 1998, vehicle theft in 2002, and evading a peace officer/disregard safety in 2002.

The Stockton Police Department, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and the United States Attorney's Office are involved in a joint effort to reduce possession of firearms by previously convicted felons by prosecuting more cases in federal court where sentences are generally higher. Additionally, in federal court the person will serve almost the full prison term before being released under supervision for an additional 3 years (in which any violation of the terms of supervision might send him back to prison). It is hoped that Project Exile will have a deterrent effect on persons previously convicted of felony offenses and convince them that the possible downside to illegally possessing a firearm outweighs any perceived temporary benefit.

Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles stated that the maximum penalty for the felon in possession of ammunition and firearm charge under federal law is 10 years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine and a three year term of supervised release. There is no parole on a federal sentence.

The charges contained in the indictment are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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